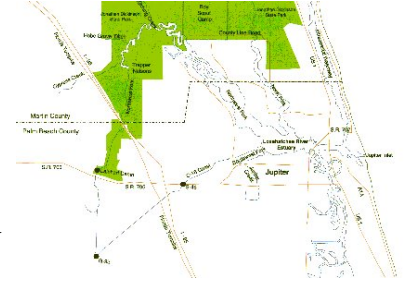


# ***Loxahatchee River***

## ***Minimum Flows and Levels***

### ***The Loxahatchee River Today***

The Loxahatchee River and its upstream watershed are located along the Lower East Coast of Florida. This watershed drains an area of approximately 200 square miles. It is located within northern Palm Beach and southern Martin Counties, and drains into the Atlantic Ocean via the Jupiter Inlet in Jupiter, Florida. The River originates in the Loxahatchee Slough, flows north and bends east through Jonathan Dickinson State Park, and then flows southeast towards the Jupiter Inlet.



The River has been often referred to as the "last free flowing river in southeast Florida". In 1985, the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River became Florida's first federally designated Wild and Scenic River. In addition, different portions of the River and estuary have been designated as an aquatic preserve, Outstanding Florida Waters and a state park.

The Northwest Fork represents one of the last vestiges of native cypress river-swamp within southeast Florida. Large sections of the River's watershed and river-corridor are included in Jonathan Dickinson State Park, which contains other outstanding examples of the region's natural habitats.

Local drainage, lowered water tables, diverted flows, dredging, channelization, and urban development have reduced the amount of freshwater available to the River and have altered the natural flow patterns significantly. Freshwater wetland communities have been displaced by estuarine species that have become established up the river where they were not found historically.

The greater watershed is unique in that it contains a number of natural areas that are essentially intact and in public ownership. These include

- [J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area](#)
- [Jonathan Dickinson State Park](#)
- [Beeline Corridor Natural Area](#)
- [Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge](#)
- [Juno Dunes Natural Area](#)
- [Jupiter Ridge Natural Area](#)
- [The Pal-Mar tract](#)
- [The Atlantic Coastal ridge](#)
- [Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District](#)
- [Cypress Creek Watershed Assessment](#)
- Draft Loxahatchee River Restoration Plan
  - [Part 1](#)
  - [Part 2](#)